

Amendments To The Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of claims:

1. (Presently Amended) An isolated or purified enzyme exhibiting nicotianamine synthase activity, wherein the enzyme is selected from:
(A) the polypeptide having comprising an amino acid sequence shown in of SEQ ID NO: 1; or
(B) a polypeptide corresponding to SEQ ID NO: 1 in which at least one amino acid has been replaced by another amino acid residue, at least one amino acid in the sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1 has been deleted, or at least one additional amino acid has been inserted into the sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1 or amino acid sequence having deletion in a part thereof, being substituted by the other amino acids or being added with the other amino acids.
2. (Presently Amended) The ~~nicotianamine synthase~~enzyme according to claim 1, wherein said enzyme is ~~originated~~isolated from barley.
3. (Presently Amended) The ~~nicotianamine synthase~~enzyme according to claim 1 ~~or 2~~, ~~comprising having~~ wherein the enzyme has an amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO: 1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 11 or 13.
4. (Presently Amended) The ~~nicotianamine synthase~~enzyme according to claim 1, wherein said enzyme is ~~originated~~isolated from Arabidopsis.
5. (Presently Amended) The ~~nicotianamine synthase~~enzyme according to claim 1 ~~or 4~~, ~~comprising having~~ wherein the enzyme has an amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO: 17, 19 or 21.

6. (Presently Amended) The ~~nicotianamine synthase~~enzyme according to claim 1, wherein said enzyme is ~~originated~~obtained from *Oryza sativa*.

7. (Presently Amended) The ~~nicotianamine synthase~~enzyme according to claim 1 ~~or~~ 6, ~~comprising having~~wherein the enzyme has an amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO: 15.